



### FALKLANDS (MALVINAS) ODYSSEY

**9 Day Voyage**  
**November 21-29, 2003**  
**Stanley to Stanley**

The Falkland Islands consist of two main islands (East Falkland and West Falkland) and more than 400 other islands and islets. Scattered over a distance of some 160 miles from west to east and 85 miles from north to south, in the remote South Atlantic, they are best explored by ship.

During this fabulous voyage, we travel the length and breadth of the archipelago and visit one, two or even three different islands every day.

The wildlife here is exceptional and, not surprisingly, the Falklands has often been described as the South Atlantic's answer to the Galapagos Islands. With half a dozen breeding species of penguin, colonies of Black-browed Albatrosses and Southern Giant Petrels, as

well as Falkland Flightless Steamer Ducks, Falkland Diving Petrels, Upland and Kelp Geese, Tussock Birds and many other endemic species and sub-species, it is a bird watcher's paradise. But you don't have to be a bird watcher to enjoy Striated Caracaras, Dolphin Gulls, Snowy Sheathbills, Black-crowned Night Herons and the many other extraordinary (and remarkably tame) birds to be found here in abundance. The archipelago is also home to several different seals and sea lions and a variety of cetaceans ranging from Commerson's dolphins to killer whales.

#### **November 21 - Santiago, Chile**

Arrive in Santiago, the busy capital of Chile and transfer independently to the Hotel Plaza San Francisco or similar hotel. The remainder of the day is free to explore this colorful town at leisure.

#### **November 22 - Stanley, Falkland Islands**

This morning after breakfast fly\* to Stanley, the charming capital of the Falkland Islands. Embark the Professor Multanovskiy in the afternoon.

# Footprint Itinerary

## **November 23 - Sea Lion & Bleaker Islands**

Sea Lion Island is an important wildlife destination, some 40 species of birds are known to visit the island, many of them nesting here. Elephant seals and sea lions also breed here and, because of this, it is not unusual to see orca patrolling the coastal waters. We will land on the island to enjoy a morning of walking and wildlife viewing, with a stop for tea at the island lodge.

In the afternoon we sail on to Bleaker Island where the highlight will be the large Rockhopper Penguin colony containing some 750 pairs. Gentoo and Magellanic Penguins are also seen on the island and, as we walk along the beautiful sandy beaches, we expect to see Crested Caracaras and the occasional Striated Caracara.

## **November 24 - Beaver Island and Staats Island**

We spend today exploring two neighbouring islands: Beaver Island and Staats Island (time-permitting we may also try to make a landing on Tea Island). Beaver supports a colony of around 2,800 pairs of Gentoo Penguins and, at this time of year, the eggs will be hatching. There will be a great deal of activity as the adults return en masse to feed their young chicks. The area is also excellent for indigenous wildfowl such as Kelp and Upland Geese and Ruddy-headed Ducks. Patagonian Crested Ducks, Magellanic Penguins and Striated Caracaras are also likely and southern sea lions are common at this time of the year.

On Staats Island we will stroll along beautiful sandy beaches and, hopefully, observe guanacos as they graze freely on the island. This is also a good place to look for the Patagonian fox.

Tea Island has not been grazed for 30 years and therefore has many native flowers which will be in full bloom at this time of year. The rare endemic Felton's flower was recently discovered on Tea Mountain.

## **November 25 - New Island & West Point Island**

New Island is the most westerly inhabited point of the Falkland Islands and is home to some of the finest scenery and one of the largest concentrations of wildlife in the archipelago. We expect to see Rockhopper Penguins, Black-browed Albatrosses and Falkland Islands fur seals which all abound in this naturalists' paradise.

The highlights on West Point Island are superb colonies of Black-browed Albatrosses side-by-side with rookeries of feisty Rockhopper Penguins. There will be a chance to walk on the rolling moorland of this impressive island and to have afternoon tea with the hospitable owners at their private settlement.

## **November 26 - Saunders Island and Keppel Island**

Saunders Island, named after Admiral Sir Charles Saunders, was the site of the first British settlement at Port Egmont in 1765. It is now one of the top wildlife attractions of the archipelago, with huge colonies of Gentoo, Magellanic and Rockhopper Penguins, as well as small numbers of King and Macaroni Penguins and even the occasional Chinstrap.

Keppel Island is most famous for its settlement established in the 1850s by the Patagonian Missionary Society to educate South American Indians in the ways of Christianity. It had a 50-year history before being sold as a sheep farm in 1911.

## **November 27 - Port Howard**

Port Howard, with its green-roofed houses, nestles in a cosy valley, beside a deep creek filled with fish, and a working farm of around 40,000 sheep. If the weather permits we will Zodiac cruise up the Many Branch River before being collected by Land Rover for a drive over the "camp" prior to returning to the settlement of Port Howard.

We have the pleasure of being shown around the settlement with its school (which has one pupil) and enjoy a shearing demonstration before joining the locals for a barbeque and a relaxing evening at their social club.

## **November 28 - George & Barren Islands**

We spend the day exploring George and Barren Islands, lying off the southern coast of West Falkland. These two islands are still worked as sheep farms and are home to an abundance of wildlife. We expect to see Gentoo, Rockhopper and Magellanic Penguins as well as Black-browed Albatrosses and Southern Giant Petrels. We also hope to take a Zodiac cruise around the surrounding smaller islands to look for other birds and seals.

## **November 29 - Stanley, Falklands**

Stanley, the charming capital of these remote South Atlantic Islands, is dominated by a 19th-century Anglican cathedral.

We will have time to explore and to visit the small, but excellent, museum before transferring to the airport for the flight\* to Santiago.

\*Airfare is not included in the program. Some group flights are available on request.

**Please note:** Read this itinerary as a guide only; our exact route and program varies according to ice and weather conditions - and the wildlife we encounter. Flexibility is the key to the success of this expedition.